

His Excellency Nana Akufo Addo  
President of the Republic of Ghana  
Office of the President  
Flagstaff House  
Accra  
GHANA

October 2018

IT IS TIME TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN GHANA!

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty, marked on 10 October every year, to kindly request you to use all your influence in order to have the death penalty abolished for all offences in the law books of your country.

The world is moving away from the death penalty; 106 countries have already abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Moreover, Ghana has not carried out an execution since 1993, which suggests some progress away from the death penalty.

Furthermore, the abolition of the death penalty has been supported by Ghana's Constitutional Review Commission as well as by prominent figures including the late, former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan.

At the end of 2017 160 people were under sentence of death in Ghana. Conditions of detention experienced by those under sentence of death are poor and do not meet international law and standards. When Amnesty International visited Nsawam Prison in 2016, death row prisoners stated they often did not have access to medication to treat illnesses and long-term conditions. They were also prevented from participating in recreational and educational activities. Although some progress has been made since 2016, Amnesty International remains concerned that death row prisoners are not treated in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Therefore I appeal to you to

- publicly commit to the abolition of the death penalty;
- to use all your influence in order to have the death penalty abolished for all crimes in Ghana;
- commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment;
- order the review of all cases of death row prisoners to identify any potential miscarriages of justice;
- and ensure that all death row prisoners are treated in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular, that they are provided with adequate medical care and access to recreational and educational facilities; for

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Yours sincerely,